



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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TO: Division of Dockets Management
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

SUBJECT: Docket No. 2003P-0029 – FDA Proposed withdrawing “essential-use” status for albuterol metered-dose inhalers using Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) propellants.

To Whom It May Concern:

Upon the request of the Food and Drug Administration, I am writing to urge the FDA to not remove ‘essential-use’ status from albuterol metered dose inhalers using CFC propellants. The reasons for phasing out these products are convincing, but the FDA must also weigh the potential public health impacts of such an action.

I understand that currently, non-CFC products retail for \$36 - \$42.00 each. Limiting the market would cause an increase in the prices of these products. In comparison, comparable CFC-containing products retail for less than \$20.00. I, among many healthcare, community and social organizations, feel strongly that this cost differential may inhibit some from obtaining the lifesaving medication needed in the event of breathing difficulties or an ‘asthma attack’. The inability of having this life saving medication readily accessible to those who rely on and the lack of affordable health care may result in increased costs (emergency room visits, hospitalizations or lost productivity) and reduced quality of life or even death.

To ensure all persons with asthma and COPD can maintain access to affordable medications and healthcare, please support our need to maintain ‘essential-use’ designation on albuterol CFC-containing MDIs.

In closing, I would like to thank the FDA for their continued work on promoting and protecting the public health by helping safe and effective products reach the market in a timely way, and monitoring products for continued safety after they are in use. Your commitment to protecting consumers and promoting public health is evident and appreciated.

Best regards,

Cleopathia L. Moore, PHN,MPA
Associate Director
Health Services Agency/Public Health

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